

11.35; wing, 3.62; tail, 3.00; culmen, .65; bill from nostril, .48; gape, .75; tarsus, .82; middle toe and claw, .80; middle toe without claw, .58; middle claw, .25 inch. Iris hazel. Bill with maxilla dusky brown, yellowish on edges, mandible yellow. Tarsi and toes bluish lead color. This bird was in the plumage of the female, but careful dissection proved that it was a young male.

[17.1.] *Cistothorus stellaris* (Licht.). SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—A summer resident; not rare at Cornwall, on the Hudson, where its nests and eggs were taken by Mr. Eltinge Roe, in June, 1882, as recorded in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VIII. p. 179.

79. *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* Allen. NELSON'S SPARROW.—The Sharp-tailed Sparrows recorded by me from the Hudson Highlands have recently been referred by Mr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., to this form, although he considers them to be intermediate between subspecies *nelsoni* and *subvirgatus*, approaching a little more closely to *nelsoni*.

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## NOTE ON THE NESTING OF *BUTEO BRACHYURUS* AT ST. MARKS, FLORIDA.

BY C. J. PENNOCK.

EARLY in April, 1889, while on a collecting trip at St. Marks, Florida, I spent several days in the swamps that line the Gulf coast.

April 3, I noticed a small black Hawk fly to a nest in a pine tree about three miles back from the coast. On climbing to the nest I found the tree had formerly been occupied by Herons, there being three old nests besides the one occupied by the Hawk, which also I took for an old Heron's nest. It had evidently been added to recently, and contained two or three fresh twigs of green cypress on the bottom. At this time there were no eggs. I again visited the nest April 8. The old bird was seen near, and this time she showed some concern, flying around us above the tree tops as we approached, and several times uttering a cry somewhat resembling the scream of the Red-shouldered Hawk, but finer and not so prolonged. The nest had received further additions of cypress twigs, but was still empty. My boatman wrote me May 2, stating that after three visits he had shot the bird on the nest

and taken one egg. He skinned her, but found no more eggs. I shortly received both the skin and egg and sent the former to the Ornithologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for positive identification. It is the form heretofore known as *Buteo fuliginosus*, now believed to be merely a dark color phase of *B. brachyurus* (see W. E. D. Scott, Auk, VI, July, 1889, 243-244).

The egg is dull white, showing blue when held against strong light. It is spotted on the larger end with reddish brown, in small spots and blotches, over about one fourth of the surface. A few finer spots extend to the middle of the smaller end where, however, they can hardly be seen unless closely examined. The egg measures  $55 \times 41$  mm.

Until recently this tropical species was regarded as a rare if not accidental visitor in Florida. The first positive record of its breeding in the United States appeared in the last number of 'The Auk,' where Mr. W. E. D. Scott states that he found a pair building at Tarpon Springs. The present record is of special interest inasmuch as it not only increases the probability that the species breeds regularly along the Gulf Coast of Florida, but carries its range northward to St. Marks, which is in western Florida, north of the Gulf. It would not be surprising if future field work showed the breeding range of this species to extend westward throughout the Gulf States wherever suitable localities exist.

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## A NEW WREN FROM THE LOWER RIO GRANDE, TEXAS, WITH NOTES ON BERLANDIER'S WREN OF NORTHEASTERN MEXICO.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

FEW BIRDS have been more puzzling than the specimens of *Thryothorus* which I collected on the Rio Grande in 1877, and gave to the National Museum after sending them to Dr. Coues for identification. Many examples, all of the same general character, have since been obtained from the same locality. Certainly these birds cannot be placed with *T. ludovicianus*,—Carolina Wren,—